

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

SCA-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /111 W

----- 101926

R 161231Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6873

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, BU, CZ, HU

SUBJECT: FRG, THE EAST EUROPEANS AND BERLIN: FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY DIGGING IN ITS HEELS

REF: BONN 11667

1. RELIABLE FRG FONOFF SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT AT
AUGUST 15 FEDERAL CABINET MEETING, CHANCELLOR BRANDT
TOOK A HARD POSITION ON THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BULGARIA AND HUNGARY. HE IS SAID
TO HAVE STATED FLATLY THAT NO SETTLEMENTS WOULD BE
REACHED WITH THE THREE COUNTRIES CONCERNED UNTIL ALL OF
THE FRG'S DIFFICULTIES ON BERLIN MATTERS WERE SATIS-
FACTORILY RESOLVED. HE WISHED THIS POSITION MADE CLEAR
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TO THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, AS WELL AS TO THE USSR. THE

FONOFF WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR IN BONN LATE AUGUST 15 TO MAKE THE CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS KNOWN.

2. THE SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN TO THE FONOFF, WE ARE TOLD, PRECISELY WHAT PROBLEMS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS WITH THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE CONCEPT. THE FONOFF HAS POINTED OUT TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE PROBLEM IS A PRACTICAL ONE FOR THE GERMANS AND HENCE ONE THAT CREATES PUBLIC AND POLITICAL INTEREST. IT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DISPUTE TENDED TO SOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE USSR AND ITS ALLIES ON AN ISSUE THAT WAS SURELY OF LITTLE PRACTICAL MOMENT TO THE EE STATES.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR ON AUGUST 15 TRIED TO CAST CZECH DEPUTY FONMIN GOETZ'S PRESS INTERVIEW (PRAGUE 1920--NOTAL) IN A POSITIVE LIGHT. VON WECHMAR SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE CZECH OFFICIAL'S ASSURANCES RE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS AND RE THE FRG'S CONSULAR REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN. THE PRESS SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMED THAT OTHER OPEN QUESTION WOULD ALSO BE SETTLED SO AS TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION CONCERNED THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE/WEST BERLIN ISSUE (DESCRIBED REFTEL).

4. THE GERMAN PRESS IS CONTINUING TO GIVE THE FRG'S DIFFICULTIES WITH THE EES OVER THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE MATTER PROMINENT ATTENTION. THERE ALSO CONTINUE TO BE REPORTS INDICATING A POSSIBLE NEED FOR THE FOUR POWERS TO PROVIDE A CLARIFICATION OF THE "CONSULAR SERVICES" LANGUAGE IN THE BERLIN AGREEMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE PROBLEM IS CREATING SOME POLITICAL HEAT IN THE FRG, TOGETHER WITH THE APPARENT READINESS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A STIFF POSITION, MAY BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THE SOVIETS THAT
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THE FRG MEANS BUSINESS.
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN11688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CASH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730835/aaaaazia.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 11667
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG, THE EAST EUROPEANS AND BERLIN: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY DIGGING IN ITS HEELS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, BU, CZ, HU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005